STRYKER CORNER

AN INTRODUCTION TO THE SBCT

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This is the initial article for the new section titled "TRADOC System Manager - Stryker and Bradley (TSM-S/B) Corner." TSM S/B represents the user during development of Stryker and Bradley vehicles and their associated support equipment. Colonel Don Sando, the System Manager, heads up an office of 28 personnel located at Fort Benning and 13 personnel located in SBCT Forward Cells and TSM offices in key areas throughout the Army. This initial article provides an overview of the Stryker Brigade Combat Teams' vehicles and organization. Future articles will focus on specific vehicles and their developmental/upgrades progress.

The Stryker Infantry Carrier Vehicle

The Stryker Brigade Combat Team (SBCT) is a full spectrum, early entry combat force that is optimized for employment in small-scale contingencies in complex and urban terrain. It is designed to confront low-end and mid-range threats that may employ both conventional and asymmetric capabilities. The SBCT's major fighting components consist of three motorized, combined arms, infantry battalions that are supported by additional organic combat, combat support, and combat service support elements. The SBCT is a true system of systems that has the infantry company mission as its focus with the infantry Soldier at its center. The execution of these missions is supported with a common vehicle platform, the Stryker.

The Stryker vehicles in the SCBT consist of two variants, the Infantry Carrier Vehicle (ICV) and the Mobile Gun System (MGS). The ICV also has eight configurations based on its design. These configurations are the Mortar Carrier Vehicle (MCV), the Anti-Tank Guided Missile (ATGM), the Reconnaissance Vehicle (RV), the Engineer Squad Vehicle (ESV), the Fire Support Vehicle (FSV), the NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle (NBC-RV), the Medical Evacuation Vehicle (MEV), and the Command Vehicle (CV).

The infantry squad is at the point of SBCT operations. The squad's versatility and proficiency are critical to the success of missions that range from infantry assaults to stability and support. The squad's success is supported by both vehicle and hand-carried weapons and equipment. These include M4 rifles with various appended components, M240 machine guns, Javelin missiles, night vision optics and pointer/designators, and all the weapons organic to or supporting the SBCT. This provides the infantry squads with an enormous amount of firepower, from rifles to Air Force delivered ordinance.

The Infantry Carrier Vehicle is the base vehicle in the SBCT. It provides the infantry squad highly mobile, protected transport to decisive locations. The ICV also provides direct fire support for the squad. The ICV carries a nine-man squad with a two-man crew. It is equipped with a Remote Weapon System (RWS). The RWS allows the vehicle commander to engage targets from inside the protection of the vehicle. The RWS mounts the M2 .50 cal machine gun or the MK19 grenade launcher and allows target engagements during the day or night using FLIR or day camera technologies. C4 equipment includes FBCB2 (Force XXI Battle Command Brigade and Below [ANYUK-128]), SINCGARS (single-channel ground and airborne radio subsystem [ANVRC-91F]), EPLRS (enhanced position-locating reporting system [ANV/SQ-2Q(V)1]), PLGR/DAGR (precise lightweight GPS receiver/defense advanced GPS receiver), and FHMUX (frequency hopping multiplexor). As with all Stryker vehicles,

Reactive Armor Tiles

SLAT Armor

Mobile Gun System

the ICV has Modular Expandable Armor System (MEXAS) armor protection. Add-on rocket-propelled grenade (RPG) reactive tiles may also be mounted for additional protection. Slat armor also provides another level of RPG protection.

The Mobile Gun System provides rapid and lethal direct fires to support infantry operations. A key supporting task of the MGS is to "punch" holes through walls that allow infantry squads rapid access inside structures. The MGS has a low profile turret with an M60A1 105 mm gun that includes autoloading capability. It also has an M240C machine gun as a secondary weapon. The MGS is manned by a three-man crew.

The Mortar Carrier Vehicle provides the immediate, responsive mortar fire support that is critical to the Infantry achieving its rapid, decisive results. The MCV can provide accurate and lethal high angle fires that support operations in complex terrain and urban environments. The accuracy of these fires is enhanced through the use of the SBCT's improved situational awareness and the Mortar Fire Control System. Presently, there are two models of the MCV. The MCV-A tows a 120mm mortar and crews fire this system in a dismounted mode. The MCV-B improves upon the "A" by providing the capability to fire the 120mm mortar onboard the vehicle. The MCV carries a four-man section. The MCV is also equipped with a 81mm mortar at the battalion level and a 60mm at the company level. The MCV-A is equipped with the RWS mounting an M2 or MK19 weapon. The MCV-B has a pintle-mounted M240 series machine gun.

The Anti-Tank Guided Missile variant is the primary tank killer, capable of defeating any armored threat at extended ranges. The ATGM carries a four-man AT team with TOW-II missiles. It is also equipped with a pintle-mounted M240 machine gun.

The Reconnaissance Vehicle enables the reconnaissance, surveillance, and target acquisition (RSTA) squadron and battalion scouts to perform reconnaissance and surveillance operations. The RV carries a five-man dismount section with a two-man crew. It has a power-assisted cupola mounted with an M2 or MK19 weapon. The cupola also mounts the Long Range Scout Surveillance System (LRAS3).

The Engineer Squad Vehicle provides an engineer squad highly mobile, protected transport. It allows the engineer company to provide mobility and limited counter mobility support to the SBCT. The ESV carries a nine-man engineer squad with a two-man crew. It can mount a mine roller, mine plow and/or mine detection systems.

The vehicle weapon system on the Fire Support Vehicle is the RWS with the M2. which provides automation enhanced surveillance, target acquisition, target identification/designation and communications that support the SBCT with "first round" fire for effect capability. It also provides the company fire support team (FIST) with the capability to automate command and control functions required to perform fire support planning, directing, controlling, cross-functional coordination and execution. The FSV carries a four-man FIST and integrates the M707 Knight Mission Equipment Package. The vehicle has a pintle-mounted M240 machine gun.

The NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle provides situational awareness and detection to warn via cooperative NBC networks. Its enhanced capability to see and avoid contamination increases combat power by reducing force degradation due to NBC conditions. The NBC-RV carries a four-man NBC team and contains an extensive NBC suite and meteorological

Mortar Carrier Vehicle - A

Mortar Carrier Vehicle - B

Anti-Tank Guided Missile

Reconnaissance Vehicle

Engineer Squad Vehicle

Fire Support Vehicle

system. It is also equipped with an over-pressure system. The vehicle has an RWS with an M2 or MK19.

The Medical Evacuation Vehicle is the primary ambulance platform. It is dedicated to casualty evacuation and used to support the organic medic who rides with and accompanies the infantry Soldier during infantry operations. These evacuations include emergency care en route, enhanced by a medic in a protected environment, with adequate lighting and medical equipment. The MEV carries an ambulance team of three. It also carries four litter or six ambulatory patients.

The Command Vehicle provides an operational platform for command elements within the unit. It provides commanders the capability to see and direct the battle continuously while maintaining a common relevant operations picture (CROP) of all friendly forces within their respective area of operation. The CV carries a three-man command section with a two-man crew. Its C4ISR package is tailored to the specific echelon of command using the vehicle. It has the ability to "plug-in" to aircraft power and antenna systems in order to plan missions en route, aboard the aircraft. The vehicle's weapon system includes the RWS mounted with an M2 or Mk19.

The SBCT also contains a RSTA squadron. This unique organization is the primary source of combat information. This squadron seeks to see, know, and understand the operational environment in detail, with the objective of creating an umbrella of understanding across the AO. This squadron can simultaneously reconnoiter nine routes or conduct surveillance of 18 designated areas on a continuous 24-hour cycle. These squadrons not only excel in the traditional role of reconnaissance and surveillance but also in the broader mission of providing situational understanding of the operational environment. This includes political, cultural, economic, and demographic factors.

The SBCT's organization and equipment is designed to conduct small-scale contingencies. However, these units can augment heavy or light divisions during larger scale operations. As a motorized force, the SBCT is designed for fast-paced, distributed operations. Typically, it operates within an AO of approximately 50 x 50 kilometers. Its RSTA squadron disperses throughout the entire AO while infantry battalions normally operate within smaller areas, noncontiguous to each other. Infantry companies and platoons may also be dispersed within the battalion areas.

The SBCT's C4ISR capabilities and high mobility enable it to operate differently than in the past. This is a result of the enhanced situational understanding available to SBCT commanders. In the past, maneuver forces normally made contact and developed the situation. The SBCT, with its enhanced situational understanding, is able to develop the situation, move to positions of advantage and then initiate contact at a time and place of the commander's choosing.

The SBCT, with the infantry company mission as its focus, provides war-fighting CINCs a flexible ground-fighting force anywhere in the world within 96 hours. The SBCTs reflect a great improvement in strategic responsiveness while providing the needed lessons for development of future forces.

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NBC Reconnaissance Vehicle

Medical Evacuation Vehicle

Command Vehicle